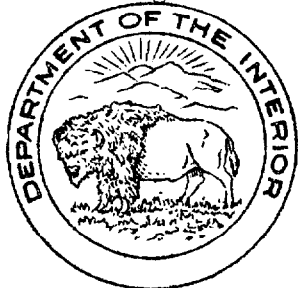


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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES.

For Release to the  
PM's of Wednesday, July 12, 1944. W

The Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries announced today that, with few exceptions, it will not approve applications for priorities for the construction of any additional fishing vessels during the remainder of the year.

Construction of fishing vessels during the first half of the year has been so accelerated, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Deputy Coordinator, said, that the materials originally estimated for the entire year of 1944 have been greatly depleted. Today's action was necessary, he said, to keep the vessel construction program at the level approved by the War Production Board.

Since materials were made available by the War Production Board a year ago, OCF has recommended priorities for the construction of 1,029 vessels.

"When vessels now under construction or approved have been completed," Dr. Gabrielson said, "and with the addition of requisitioned vessels which are now being returned by the Navy in increasing numbers, the U. S. fishing fleet will be substantially at its pre-war size, although there will be a deficit in certain categories of vessels."

The Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries will not apply to WPB for authorization of additional materials beyond that already programmed for the rest of the year, the Deputy Coordinator said, for the reason that manpower shortages, lack of shore facilities, and inadequate refrigeration are already acting as brakes upon the production of the fisheries in many areas.

In four categories applications will still be considered. They are:

(1) Applications that have already been submitted to the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries, but have not yet been acted on;

(2) Requests for increase in previous allotments;

(3) Bona fide emergency or hardship cases, such as the loss (not sale) of a boat which is the owner's means of a livelihood;

(4) Applications that are intended to authorize a production schedule and preference rating only, without allotment of materials, or small projects of the "backyard" type where the owner does his own building, and little or no material allotment is required.

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